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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 2, 2003, 9:30 a.m., at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. Note: This meeting was rescheduled from the Board's normal first Monday meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Chair Barnes let in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation offered by Commissioner Barger.
4. Closed Session.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body. Mr. Lundy said Catawba County Economic Development Director Scott Millar would be invited to attend the Closed Session and Mr. Millar had to leave for an appointment around 10:00 a.m.

At 9:31 a.m. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body. The motion carried unanimously.

At 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Barger made a motion to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session and closed session of Monday, August 18, 2003. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Special Guests and Public Comment.

Chair Barnes welcomed everyone in the audience. No one requested to make public comment.

7. Presentations:
  - a. The Board proclaimed September 7-13, 2003, as Environmental Awareness Week, and Commissioner Hunsucker presented the Proclamation to Ray Henderson, Member, Soil and Water Conservation Board and Fred Miller, Cooperative Extension Director.

Mr. Henderson said they would be sponsoring field days at Southside Park in Newton on September 9 and 11 with rain dates of September 16 and 28, 2003. He gave a brief overview of the classes the 56 students would be taking.
  - b. The Board proclaimed September 7-28, 2003, as Litter Sweep Weeks, and Commissioner Beatty presented a proclamation to Barry B. Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director.

Mr. Edwards said during the Spring Litter Sweep a total of 5,090 bags were collected containing 100 tons of garbage. He said the County waives fees for the orange and blue bags during Litter Sweep Weeks. The orange and blue bags will be available at the Utilities & Engineering Office, on the second floor of the County Government Center in Newton, beginning Tuesday, September 2. Catawba County is second in North Carolina for recycling. NCDOT has a program for the most unusual item found on the roadway with a monetary reward of \$250 for first place, \$100 for second and \$50 for third place. Forms may be picked up in the Utilities and Engineering Office.

- c. Presentation of Barbara Fowler's side arm and badge.

Commissioner Barger made a motion to declare Sheriff's Deputy Barbara L. Fowler's service side arm and badge as surplus pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 20-187.2 and present same to her on the occasion of her retirement. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff L. David Huffman and Chair Barnes presented a plaque, service side arm and badge to Deputy Fowler on the occasion of Deputy Fowler's retirement.

Deputy Fowler thanked the Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to serve the County and she said it had been a pleasure.

- d. Student Growth Estimation Model.

Mr. Dee Blackwell and Mr. Taylor Dellinger, Western Piedmont Council of Governments presented the following Growth Estimation Model:

CGEM Report Study of the Catawba County, Hickory and  
Newton-Conover School Systems

CGEM Project Goal

-To develop a workable model using GIS technology that measures and estimates student population growth in the County's three school systems.

Why Analyze Student Growth?

-Understanding potential student population growth is essential before school officials and planners can determine the need for, location and size of future school buildings within the County.

Catawba County Demographic Trends

-During the 1990s, Catawba County's population increases were driven by substantial job growth and net in-migration.

-The economic boom of the late 1990s caused student enrollments for the County's three school systems to rise and diversify rapidly.

-The loss of 10,000 jobs between 2000 and 2002 reduced enrollment growth of the three school systems in Catawba County.

CGEM Components

Student per New Housing Unit Ratios

-Ratios were calculated by overlaying student addresses derived from SIMS with new residential construction between 1997 and 2001.

-The model generated ratios of students (all grades) per new single-family house of 0.63 for the Catawba County Schools, 0.69 for the Hickory Public Schools, and 0.61 for the Newton-Conover City Schools.

-Student ratios ranged widely by location and type of school across the County.

-Elementary district ratios varied from 0.27 to 0.53, middle schools from 0.05 to 0.16, and high schools from 0.14 to 0.19.

-Higher ratios continue to occur in districts on the edge of cities where families with young children are migrating such as Campbell and Mountain View.

Other CGEM Inputs:

-Projected Number of New Housing Units

-Current Student Enrollment

-Grade Retention Rates

-Birth Rates

-Dropout Rates

-Economic Conditions

CGEM Methodology

-The estimates generated by the model are meant to give a picture of possible student growth and should be viewed with the caveats of changing economic conditions, migration patterns and/or governmental regulations.

Catawba County Schools Demographic Trends

- Over 80% of all population and enrollment growth in Catawba County between 1990 and 2002 occurred inside the boundaries of the County school system.
- New residential growth caused enrollments inside the Catawba County School System to rise from 14,100 in 1995 to 16,230 in 2000 for an average increase of 426 students per year.
- Between 2000 and 2002, the weaker economy caused enrollments in the County system to increase by only 397 students.

CGEM Model Example: Campbell School District  
Location

- About 52% of Campbell's 6,662 acres are located in County Planning Jurisdiction areas.
- The majority of the district's land is zoned for residential uses.
- GIS analysis reveals that intense residential development has occurred in the Campbell area since 1990.

CGEM Model Example: Campbell School District  
Household and Population Demographics

- Census block data revealed population growth of 43.1% (from 5,068 to 7,252 persons) within the Campbell district between 1990 and 2000.
- Job growth and net in-migration caused Campbell's population rise in the 1990s.
- This net in-migration resulted in Campbell's student population dramatically increasing from 595 in 1995 to 783 in 2002.

CGEM Model Example: Campbell School District  
Vacant Acreage and Housing Growth

- Catawba's GIS and building permit records indicate that between 1997 and 2001 a total of 647 new dwellings were added inside the Campbell district.
- Despite the recent intensive residential growth, over 2,127 acres remain for future development.
- The Campbell district has both the vacant land and adequate infrastructure in place to allow the construction of more than 70 houses annually through 2009.

CGEM Model Example: Projected Student Growth

- Campbell Elementary: (Current Capacity: 675) Student enrollment may increase from 783 in 2002 to 844 students in 2009 or 25% over capacity
- Conclusion: The predicted additional 61 students could cause overcrowding at the school.

Projected Growth: Elementary Schools Over Capacity by 2009

- Balls Creek Elem. (Current Capacity: 925)  
Student enrollment may increase from 880 in 2002 to 931 students in 2009 or 1% over capacity
- Sherrills Ford Elem. (Current Capacity: 650)  
Student enrollment may increase from 649 in 2002 to 696 students in 2009 or 7% over capacity
- Banoak Elementary: (Current Capacity: 350)  
Student enrollment may increase from 380 in 2002 to 418 students in 2009 or 19% over capacity
- Blackburn Elem. (Current Capacity: 675)  
Student enrollment may increase from 699 in 2002 to 769 students in 2009 or 14% over capacity

-Campbell Elementary: (Current Capacity: 700)  
Student enrollment may increase from 783 in 2002 to 844 students in 2009 or 25% over capacity  
-Murray Elementary: (Current Capacity: 500)  
Student enrollment may increase from 497 in 2002 to 510 students in 2009 or 2% over capacity

-Sweetwater Elem. (Current Capacity: 280)  
Student enrollment may increase from 295 in 2002 to 309 students in 2009 or 10% over capacity

Projected Growth: Middle/High Schools Over Capacity by 2009

-Bandys High: (Current Capacity: 900)  
Student enrollment may increase from 944 in 2002 to 1,063 students in 2009 or 19% over capacity

-Bunker Hill High: (Current Capacity: 825)  
Student enrollment may increase from 865 in 2002 to 1,012 students in 2009 or 23% over capacity

-Foard High: (Current Capacity: 1,225)  
Student enrollment may increase from 1,203 in 2002 to 1,351 students in 2009 or 10% over capacity

-Maiden High: (Current Capacity: 525)  
Student enrollment may grow from 601 in 2002 to 681 students in 2009 or 30% over capacity

-Arndt Middle (Current Capacity: 600)  
Student enrollment may increase from 665 in 2002 to 726 students in 2009 or 21% over capacity

-St. Stephens High (Current Capacity: 1,125)  
Student enrollment may increase from 1,229 in 2002 to 1,370 students in 2009 or 22% over capacity

Projected Growth: Catawba Co. Schools

-First month enrollment for the Catawba County Schools is predicted to rise from 16,627 in 2002 to 18,049 in 2009 for a 8.6% increase.  
-Catawba's elementary population is estimated to grow by 571 students, while 187 middle and 664 high school students could be added by 2009.  
-As a result of continued residential development, schools located in high growth areas (such as the outskirts of Conover and Hickory) face severe overcrowding by 2009.

Hickory Schools Demographic Trends

-The resident population in the Hickory School System increased 9.5% between 1990 and 2002.  
-Enrollments inside the Hickory School System rose from 4,268 in 1995 to 4,566 in 2000 for an average increase of 60 students per year.  
-Between 2000 and 2002, enrollments in the Hickory system dropped by 192 students.

Projected Growth: Hickory System Schools Over Capacity by 2009

-Jenkins Elementary: (Current Capacity: 403)  
Student enrollment may increase from 467 in 2002 to 493 students in 2009 or 22% over capacity

-Longview Elementary: (Current Capacity: 377)  
Student enrollment may increase from 377 in 2002 to 384 students in 2009 or 12% over capacity

-Oakwood Elementary: (Current Capacity: 321)  
Student enrollment may increase from 334 in 2002 to 338 students in 2009 or 5% over capacity

-Hickory High: (Current Capacity: 1,060)  
Student enrollment may increase from 1,232 in 2002 to 1,240 students in 2009 or 17% over capacity

Projected Growth: Hickory Schools

- First month enrollment for the Hickory Schools is predicted to fall slightly from 4,284 in 2002 to 4,219 in 2009.
- Hickory's elementary population is estimated to grow by 59 students, while a decline is predicted in the Hickory system's middle school population.
- If the CGEM model holds true, several elementary schools in the Hickory system as well as Hickory High could face severe overcrowding by 2009.

Newton-Conover Schools Demographic Trends

- The resident population in the Newton-Conover School System grew from 14,488 in 1990 and 16,220 in 2002.
- Most of the population growth in the Newton-Conover system took place inside the Shuford Elementary district.
- Between 1995 and 2002, enrollments in the Newton-Conover system increased by 126 students.

Projected Growth: Newton-Conover System Schools Near/Above Capacity by 2009

- Shuford Elementary: (Current Capacity: 465)  
Student enrollment may increase from 543 in 2002 to 591 students in 2009 or 27% over capacity
- Newton-Conover High: (Current Capacity: 895)  
Student enrollment may increase from 789 in 2002 to 869 students in 2009 or 4% under capacity

Projected Growth: Newton-Conover Schools

- First month enrollment of the Newton-Conover Schools is predicted to rise from 2,684 in 2002 to 2,823 in 2009.
- Newton-Conover's elementary population could grow by 66 students, while 80 more high school students are expected.
- The CGEM model indicates that Shuford Elementary could face severe overcrowding by 2009.

CGEM Conclusions

- The weaker economy has slowed, but not eliminated student growth at many schools in Catawba County.
- The County system will continue to grow at a faster rate than the Hickory or Newton-Conover systems.
- Based on current boundaries, several elementary and 6 of 7 high schools in the County could face severe overcrowding by 2009.
- The new Maiden High School, however, should help to alleviate overcrowding at some area high schools.

Commissioner Barger said there is more increase in the high school population which is unusual.

Mr. Dellinger said it is a combination of several factors such as a greater retention rates due to the economy, not as many part time jobs for the 16-17 year olds, and home schooled students from K-8 entering high school.

Commissioner Barger said Mountain View was not seeing as much growth as the Clyde Campbell community and yet the enrollment at Foard is rising significantly.

Mr. Dellinger said the same factors as above apply. There are families coming in and there is some loss due to families moving out due to job loss. There are a lot of large tracts of land in single ownership in the Mountain View community.

Commissioner Lail requested that Mr. Dellinger provide the Board with the approximate number of students that are home schooled in Catawba County as well as the number currently enrolled this year in Catawba County schools. He said he could provide that information and the schools will be collecting attendance information this week as they complete the 20<sup>th</sup> day.





Goals....

- Save health insurance costs
- Save workers compensation costs
- Provide enhanced pre-employment screening
- Provide quicker response to pre-employment screening and drug costs

Services

- For County employees
- Like a doctor's office - diagnose and treat illness & injuries
- Can visit for physicals, illness, injury
- Can visit for monitoring (high blood pressure, diabetes, asthmas) at no cost
- Can visit for routine services like allergy shots
- EMS wellness grant program

Pre-employment services

- Review of job description & essential functions of position
- Conducts pre-employment medical screening to determine if can meet essential functions
- Drug testing
- Savings of approximately \$45 per candidate

Confidentiality

- All records are property of CVMC
- All records are maintained in the clinic,
- Applicable workers compensation & pre-employment medical screenings information given to Personnel.
- Supervisors have been informed they cannot receive any records, except an excuse to be absent from work

Fees Employees Pay

- No charge for monitoring blood pressure, diabetes, or special participation
- \$2 per allergy or hormone shot
- \$5 fee for any illness or injury visit
- \$40 fee for medical screening

Sick Leave

- County employees do not use sick leave when visiting the clinic. Use County time, but have a special time code for visit.
- We estimate an employee would use 6 times as much sick leave to go to their physician (travel time, waiting time)

Enhancements added

- Diabetes program
- EMS wellness
- Considering expanding services to rescue squads for OSHA requirements, drug testing & screenings

Savings October 15 – June 30:

- Workers compensation claims savings estimated to be \$5,547
- Approximately \$45 on each employment candidate
- Sick leave usage approximately \$10,546
- Health insurance costs estimated to be \$87,773

Chair Barnes presented Ms. Bradley with a plaque from NCACC which came with a \$10,000 monetary award. The money was donated to the Health Clinic.

g. Plant Marshall/Clean Smokestack Upgrade.

Mr. Gary Laws, Duke Power, said in June 2002 Governor Easley passed the Clean Smokestacks Legislation. There will be a rate freeze for NC citizens until 2007. Mr. Laws said County staff had been

most cooperative as Duke was beginning its process. Mr. Laws introduced Tom Rawe, Plant Manager of the Marshall Steam Station.

Mr. Rawe said the new stack will be 94 feet taller than the existing stacks and will be more visible. Marshall has been a very efficiently run facility and they propose \$1.5 million for air quality improvements. Mr. Rawe said this is the kick-off to educate citizens on the upgrade. He said retirees, neighbors, and the Board of Commissioners would be invited to tour the facility.

He gave the following PowerPoint presentation:

#### Marshall Steam Station Environmental Upgrade Projects

He reviewed the service area on a map.

##### Coal Generation

- Plentiful and affordable supply in the United States
- Provides half the electricity on Duke Power system
- Duke Power's coal generation system among the most efficient in the nation
- Duke Power's diverse supply of nuclear, coal and hydro generation offers reliable and economical electricity for customers
- Duke Power base rates are at 1986 levels and among the lowest in the Southeast

##### Duke Power Coal-Fired Plants Annual Sulfur Dioxide Emissions (tons)

- 65 % Reduction from 2000 to 2013 attributed to scrubbers installed to meet NC Clean Air Plan

##### Duke Power Coal-Fired Plants Annual Nitrogen Oxides Emissions (tons)

- Overall reduction of 80 % from 1996 to 2009 attributed to controls installed to meet Federal Requirements and NC Clean Air Plan

##### NC CAP Duke Power Projected Cost (4/1/03 Update)

- SO<sub>2</sub> - \$1.4 Billion
- Wet Scrubber at 12 Units
- NO<sub>x</sub> - \$92 Million
- Year around operation of Low NO<sub>x</sub> Burners & Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR)
- 24 additional Selective Non-catalytic Reduction (SNCR) systems
- Additional Low NO<sub>x</sub> Burners
- Total: \$1.478 Billion

Mr. Rawe reviewed the Scrubber Design, Absorber Island and Layout of Scrubber Equipment.

##### NC CAP Technologies (SO<sub>2</sub>)

- SO<sub>2</sub> – Why Scrubbers?
- Provides significant SO<sub>2</sub> reduction
- Provides reduction for a wider range of coals giving greater fuel flexibility
- Produces a reusable by-product (gypsum)
- Proven and reliable technology
- Most widely used in eastern U.S. for SO<sub>2</sub> removal

Mr. Rawe reviewed the Wet Scrubber and Typical Scrubber Project Timeline which should take at least 38 months.

##### Marshall Steam Station Facts

- Location: Hwy 150 in Terrell, NC
- Units: 4
- Capacity: 2,090 megawatts/total
- Commercial Operation: 1965
- Employees: 135
- Marshall ranked number 2 most efficient plant in U.S. last year
- Produced 14% of Duke's Generation in 2002

Mr. Rawe reviewed Marshall SO<sub>2</sub> Reductions and Marshall NO<sub>x</sub> Reductions.

Changes at Marshall

- New stack
- Scrubber vessels and associated equipment
- Limestone storage
- Conveyor system
- Gypsum storage

Key Dates/Milestones

- Mobilize construction/timber clearing begins – Jan. 2004
- Earth moving begins – March 2004
- Open Highway 150 construction entrance – Fall 2004
- Begin construction of new stack – Fall 2004
- Start utilizing new stack – Fall 2006
- Construction complete (all 3 vessels) – Nov. 2007

After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Laws and Mr. Rawe for the presentation.

- h. Performance Report on Catawba County Goals for FY 2002-2003.

Chair Barnes reported on the following goals for FY 2002-2003:

**Performance Report on Goals for Fiscal Year 2002/2003**

(Adopted December 17, 2001)

- Goal 1. Working in partnership with the City of Claremont, establish a branch library to serve the northeastern section of the county.**

**Status** The Claremont Branch Library opened ahead of schedule on February 12, 2002. The cooperative effort of Catawba County and the City of Claremont, business leaders and the local community resulted in new library service to citizens without a great cost. During the first complete fiscal year of library operation, FY02/03, \$41,715 was budgeted for library materials and one staff person to operate the Claremont Branch Library for 20 hours each week. The City of Claremont provided space within their city building for the branch library as well as the salary and benefits for the library employee.

The library currently has almost 9,000 items available for public use. From February 2002 through June 2003, 951 citizens obtained Claremont Branch Library cards and checked out 16,946 items from the new branch library. The four public access computers were used 1,283 hours. The opening of the Claremont Branch Library has improved the quality of life for the Claremont community and areas surrounding Catawba County by bringing books, computers, and audiovisual materials within closer reach of citizens in the northeastern portion of the county.

Plans are already underway to expand the hours of service for this popular new library facility by continuing the cooperative arrangement between Catawba County and the City of Claremont. Library service will be increased to 32 hours per week by using library reinventing dollars and sharing the salary cost with the City.

- Goal 2. Continue the implementation of the Emergency Services Strategic Plan to insure appropriate and cost effective allocation of emergency services resources throughout the county.**

**Status** Catawba County Emergency Services has strived to obtain goals spelled out in the strategic plan for Emergency Services dated August 2000. The strategic plan is an ongoing process guided by budget and staffing and will continue in Fiscal Year FY 03-04 addressing goals and recommendations in the plan.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> a Rescue Coordinator position was established and staffed. This position has been part-time and instrumental in the development and implementation of the Medical First Responder program. The response time for Medical First Responders is down to under 6 minutes countywide. The number of missed calls has dropped by 45 percent system wide, so citizens are receiving better and faster service.

Catawba County EMS along with Claremont Rescue and Oxford Fire Department have broken ground on a new facility to be located on Highway 16 North. Included in the budget for 2003/2004 are funds for additional crews and equipment. This addresses another recommendation, which will reduce response time in the Oxford area, as well as system wide, by allowing the ambulance to stay in the district.

As of February 2003 another accomplished goal was the development of an Emergency Services Steering Committee and getting this committee's agreement on a countywide Incident Command System (ICS) system. Training for the ICS system is scheduled to begin September 2003.

Wireless 911 funds (a fee levied by the General Assembly on cell phone bills) were used to install equipment which lets the Communications Center locate cell phone calls to within several hundred feet of the callers location. This is the second phase of the federal goal to be able to locate mobile phone calls to within several feet of the caller. Cell phone companies are now in the processes of updating the equipment to meet this second phase goal, however, actions this past years by the state to seized funds that were earmarked for the cell phone companies has created a delay of this goal.

Wireless 911 funds were also used to purchase large flat screen monitors which are installed directly above each 911 work station. These monitors immediately display the address of 911 calls and map the calls instantly, making it quick and simple for the telecommunicator to know where the call is originating and give out directions as they dispatch the call.

**Goal 3. Develop and implement a policy to identify and evaluate factors to be considered in the extension of County-financed utilities.**

**Status** Graduate students in the University of North Carolina Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program assisted the County Environmental Health, Planning, and Utilities and Engineering Departments in identifying and evaluating factors to be considered in the extension of County-financed utilities, and in developing a tool/policy for prioritizing County-financed utilities. The tool/policy for prioritizing County-financed utilities was completed by the team in June and staff is now piloting the tool/policy to ensure its accuracy and validity prior to full implementation in the Capital Improvement Plan process.

**Goal 4. Evaluate the final recommendations of the Sherrills Ford and Mountain View Small Area Planning Committees for adoption and implementation. Continue the Small Area Planning for Oxford/St. Stephens, Balls Creek, and Catawba, including adoption of final recommendations and implementation.**

**Status** The Mountain View committee completed its plan and forwarded its recommendations to the Planning Board in late 2001. In August 2002, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the plan. Seven people provided comments to the Board. After the hearing, the Board directed staff to prepare amendments to address five issues which were presented at the meeting. Staff met individually with the Commissioners to address these issues and subsequently presented options to the Board at its October 21, 2002 meeting. The Board then conducted a second public hearing and took into consideration the amendments presented by staff. The Board of Commissioners adopted the Mountain View plan, with minor amendments, on October 21, 2002.

The Sherrills Ford committee recommended its plan to the Planning Board in June 2002. The Planning Board conducted a public hearing on the plan at its June 24, 2002 meeting where three people spoke. On July 11, 2002, a joint work session was held with the Planning Board and Sherrills Ford committee. Comments from the public hearing were considered and several amendments were made to the plan. At its August 26, 2002 meeting, the Planning Board unanimously recommended the Sherrills Ford plan to the Board of Commissioners. One-on-one work sessions on the Sherrills Ford plan were held with the Board of Commissioners in January 2003. The Board then conducted its public hearing and subsequently adopted the plan at its February 17, 2003 meeting.

The St. Stephens/Oxford committee presented its draft plan to the public at a community review meeting in September 2002. Forty citizens attended the meeting and provided comments on the plan. The committee met again in October to review the comments received and subsequently recommended the plan to the Planning Board. The Planning Board conducted a joint work session with the committee to review the recommended plan on March 17, 2003. The Planning Board subsequently conducted a public hearing and recommended the plan at its March 31, 2003 meeting. The Board of Commissioners conducted one-on-one work sessions with the committee in February 2003. The Board then conducted its public hearing and adopted the plan at its April 21, 2003 meeting.

The Balls Creek committee presented its draft plan to the public in a community review meeting held in October 2002. Approximately 20 citizens attended this meeting and provided comments on the plan. The committee met again in November and made amendments based on comments received from the community meeting. The committee members then met in one-on-one meetings with the Board of Commissioners in February 2003 to review the plan in detail. The committee then recommended the plan in April 2003. The Planning Board then held a joint work session with the committee on April 28, 2003, to review the recommended plan. The Planning Board then conducted a public hearing and then recommended the plan at its May 19, 2003 meeting. The Board of Commissioners subsequently conducted its public hearing and adopted the plan at its June 16, 2003 meeting.

The Catawba committee conducted its first meeting in January 2003. During its monthly meetings, the committee has been educated on the planning process, land use regulations and transportation. On May 20, 2003, the committee sponsored its community public input meeting. Eleven people attended this meeting and provided information to the committee for incorporation into the Catawba plan. The committee has completed its transportation recommendations and is now considering land use recommendations.

When the Mountain View plan was presented for adoption by the Board of Commissioners in October 2002, staff presented a recommendation to consider implementing the rezoning recommendations of the four current plans after all four plans were adopted. The Board agreed that it would like to see how the four plans fit together before considering rezonings. Similarly, the Board of Commissioners stated that the amendments to the land development ordinances would be completed after the adoption of the first four small area plans. In May 2003 staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consulting firms to prepare a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) which will incorporate the recommendations of the adopted Small Area Plans. Staff interviewed two firms in June and is reviewing consultant's proposals for execution of a contract in August 2003.

**Goal 5. Maintain the schedule to successfully implement the County's first 4-year revaluation cycle.**

**Status** Planning calendar activities involved in conducting Catawba County's first revaluation on a four year cycle were maintained as scheduled during fiscal year 2002/2003. Every relevant step was completed within the allotted timeframe, enabling the County to meet the January 1, 2003, effective date for implementation.

Utilizing the experience and expertise of current staff, the revaluation was conducted totally in-house. Considering the growing sentiment statewide for conducting more frequent revaluations, and the logical reasons for doing so, Catawba County has a trained and dedicated staff currently in place to conduct countywide property revaluations as often as deemed prudent by the Board of Commissioners.

Informal appeals decreased 22 percent from the last eight-year cycle (1991-1999), while Board of Equalization and Review hearings dropped 52 percent.

Public service companies receive an automatic reduction in the fourth and seventh years following the last revaluation if the level of assessment drops below 90 percent as determined by the Department of Revenue. Revaluations of four years or less eliminate this revenue loss. Catawba County lost \$2,285,253.89 in revenue for the years 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998, our last eight-year cycle. By accelerating the most recent cycle to four years (1999 – 2003), the County avoided this loss of revenue.

**Goal 6. Continue to work with the Catawba County Economic Development Commission, the FORESIGHT Steering Committee and partner municipalities to strengthen the local economy.**

**Status** On January 21, 2003, Catawba County, Catawba County Chamber of Commerce, Cities of Hickory, Newton and Claremont, Charlotte Regional Partnership, and Catawba County Economic Development Corporation sponsored a Priority 1 Economic Forum, aimed at discussing economic prosperity in the 21st Century with the business community.

Representatives of Lenoir-Rhyne College, Catawba Valley Community College, and Appalachian State University that comprise the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center (HMHEC) Board of

Directors worked to develop and implement the Higher Education Center. Chair Barnes was added to the Board of Directors and County Manager Tom Lundy was appointed to the advisory board.

Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) received a grant for the Higher Education Center from the Golden LEAF Foundation. The Board of Commissioners at its January 21, 2003, regularly scheduled meeting approved a Loan Agreement in the amount of \$350,000 with Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) to renovate space for a Hickory Metro Higher Education Center (HMHEC) at the East Campus. In return for this financial assistance, CVCC will work with the HMHEC partner institutions to implement the higher education concept as outlined in the agreement. Upon successful implementation and pay down of the loan by \$200,000, staff recommended the remaining balance of \$150,000 be forgiven as a contribution to the success of the center.

The Board of Commissioners at its May 5, 2003, meeting approved a Resolution (Interlocal Agreement) with the City of Hickory to merge the Catawba County and City of Hickory Building Inspections Divisions. The new Building Services Division focuses on customer service and expedites plan reviews, with a goal to balance safety and economic development.

Catawba County and the eight municipalities, guided by insight from the Future Forward study and the FORESIGHT process, initiated and funded the development of a Non-Manufacturing recruitment position within the Economic Development Corporation to begin Fiscal Year 2003-2004. This person will be responsible for recruiting from the services sector new job and investment such as those associated with health care, retirement, transportation and logistics, and larger commercial developments.

**Goal 7. Identify and establish alternative locations for the disposal of land clearing debris.**

<b>Status</b>	<p>After an exhaustive evaluation and investigative process, it was determined by the Board of Commissioners that it was not economically feasible under current State laws and due to operational cost for Catawba County to manage multiple land clearing, debris processing sites. With its findings, the County elected to extend hours at the existing Blackburn Landfill Facility and adjust fees to better serve its land clearing clientele.</p>
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Commissioner Beatty requested that Utilities and Engineering Director Barry B. Edwards report on the additional hours that the landfill is open.

Mr. Edwards said they have five customers and the low number may be due to the unusual rainfall.

Commissioner Beatty requested that Mr. Edwards survey the five customers to see if the extended hours are still needed. Mr. Edwards said the extension of hours has been most helpful for staff.

8. Appointments:

**Alcohol Beverage Control Board**

Chair Barnes recommended the reappointment of Clyde Sigmon for a second, three year term which will expire August 31, 2006.

## Repay Board of Directors

Commissioner Barger recommended the appointment of Amy Sigmon, District Court Judge, to replace Jill Griffin who resigned. The term expires February 28, 2004.

**WPCOG Aging Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Lail recommended the nominations for reappointments of Luther Knauff for a fifth term; Mary Jo Williams for a second term; Esther Ramseur for a third term; and Lawrence Thomas for a sixth term. The two year terms expire June 30, 2005.

Chair Barnes made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments and nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2002, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners approved its meeting calendar for 2003; and

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
County Board of Catawba Commissioners





CVCC will need that space in the next few years to serve a growing community college enrollment. The current lease ends on February 8, 2004.

Given the unique needs of these people and the importance of having such a day program, the Mental Health Board has given this a priority for construction to assure that there is a properly designed and built facility to provide adequate, long-term care for Catawba's most special citizens. The new facility would include: reception, assessment, classrooms, kitchen and dining, lockers, laundry, sick room, stimulation room, a loading dock, and warehouse. The facility would operate five days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is seen as an opportunity to create a space to meet these needs in a way that is cost efficient and most effective over time.

Due to the significant amount of site preparation, it seemed logical to attend to the long-term parking needs of Public Health. As part of the project scope, bids were included for expansion of the Public Health parking lot, which includes grading, paving, and lighting.

Purchasing Agent Debbie Anderson said plans and specifications were prepared by Walter, Robbs, Callahan, & Pearce to construct a new 15,800 square foot facility to be occupied by the Mental Health Life Skills program. A pre-bid conference was conducted on August 4, 2003, and Single-Prime and Multi-Prime Bids were received on August 14, 2003. Local general and multi-prime contractors were solicited by the architect, an advertisement in the Hickory Daily Record, and some received notice by a direct mailing from the Purchasing Division.

For the purposes of costing out the Public Health parking expansion, which includes electrical, grading, and paving costs and the cost of landscaping, contractors were asked to identify the costs associated with these items. Costs were identified and included as cost deducts: 1) eliminate the parking spaces and associated grading as shown on the site plans; 2) eliminate all landscape work as shown on the landscape drawings; 3) eliminate lighting associated with the Public Health parking expansion.

The lowest Single-Prime bidder is CBM International, Charlotte – their bid is as follows:

SINGLE PRIME	CBM International
Base Bid	\$1,846,750
Cost Deduct #1 (parking spaces)	\$ 68,000 – (deduct cost)
Cost Deduct #2 (landscape work)	\$ 56,000 – (deduct cost)
Cost Deduct #3 (lighting)	\$ 11,000 – (deduct cost)

The following is the listing of the lowest Multi-Prime bids received:

MULTI	GENERAL CBM Int'l	MECHANICAL Hickory Sheet	PLUMBING T. M. Caldwell	ELECTRICAL Decoe	TOTAL
Base	\$1,420,000	\$128,700	\$124,300	\$171,981	\$1,844,981
Cost Deduct #1	\$ 68,700			\$ 12,093	
Cost Deduct #2	\$ 56,000				-\$ 56,000
Bid Award	\$1,364,000	\$128,700	\$124,300	\$171,981	\$1,788,981

Staff recommended that the bid be awarded as the base bid, except to take the cost deduct #2 for landscape work. The total bid award to CBM International will be \$1,364,000. The landscape work will be bid separately in an effort to obtain a better cost.

A bid was received from S&S Mechanical, Statesville for multi-prime HVAC in the amount of \$174,291 and multi-prime plumbing \$116,305. However, S&S Mechanical failed to acknowledge four addenda that were issued for the project. In addition, S&S Mechanical failed to attached the state required minority outreach forms indicating their good faith efforts. It should be noted that the architect was not aware this contractor was participating and that S&S Mechanical did not attend the pre-bid conference. For these reasons, the bids from S&S Mechanical should be deemed as non-responsive and not considered for bid award.

LOW BID	SINGLE	\$1,790,750
LOW BID	MULTI	<u>\$1,788,981</u>
		\$ 1,769

Staff recommended the bid be awarded to the lowest multi-prime bidders.

Senate Bill 914 passed into law January 1, 2002, requires county governments to solicit minority participation in all construction projects over \$5,000. When the bidder does not have minority involvement in the project, they are required to submit information demonstrating that they made the effort to involve minority owned businesses. The law also requires the County to establish a goal of minority participation in construction projects. Catawba County's goal is 5%.

The multi-prime Minority Outreach Report is as follows:

CBM International	5%
Hickory Sheet Metal	4.2%
T.M. Caldwell Plumbing	0%
Decoe, Inc.	16%
Overall project	6%

When a contractor does not meet the County's outreach goal of 5%, they are required to submit additional documentation to show they made a good faith effort. Both Hickory Sheet Metal and Caldwell Plumbing have submitted their back up documentation and have satisfied staff that a good faith effort was made.

Wesley Curtis, Architect, with Walter, Robbs, Callahan, and Pearce researched the two out-of-county contractors CBM International and Decoe, Inc. CBM's headquarters are in Fredericksburg, Virginia and they have an office in Charlotte. CBM is a certified woman-owned business by the State of Virginia. They are properly licensed to perform work in North Carolina, and typically perform work within the range of this project. As of this date, there is no known reason not to award the general multi-prime bid to CBM International. Decoe, Inc. is a fairly small contracting firm, but has done work within the scope of this project; they have a reputation as being a good company to work with.

Mr. Hardy reviewed the following recap of the associated expenditures and the funding sources proposed for the project.

#### Life Skills Building Project Budget Recap

Expenses:	
	Multi-prime Bids
General Contractor	Cost
Plumbing	\$1,420,000
HVAC	124,300
Electrical	128,700
	<u>171,981</u>
	\$1,844,981
Subtotal	
Less Landscaping Bid – to be managed through separate bid/grant	( 56,000)
	\$1,788,981
Net Project Costs	
Less Public Health Parking Expense	( 80,793)
	<u>\$1,708,188</u>
Subtotal	
Additional Project Fees	
Net Project Costs	\$1,788,981
Architect Fees	120,100



Contract: General Construction - Multi Prime

Contractor	Bond/Check	License No.	Add. No. 1	Add. No. 2	Add. No. 3	Add. No. 4	Base Bid	Alt. GC-01 Eliminate Parking Spaces	Alt. GC-02 Eliminate Landscape Work
CBM International 613 Minuet Lane Charlotte, NC 28217	X	48925	x	x	x	x	\$1,420,000	\$68,700	\$56,000
Momentum Const. Services PO Box 80538 Simpsonville, NC 29680	x	53003	x	x	x	x	\$1,524,000	\$18,520	\$49,849
Monteith Construction Corp. 5521 Cannon Drive Monroe, NC 28110	x	43319	x	x	x	x	\$1,704,000	\$70,000	\$25,000
RL Casey, Inc. PO Box 8948 Greensboro, NC 27419	x	10137	x	x	x	x	\$1,546,214	\$83,181	\$10,298
Southern Constructors, Inc. PO Box 3216 Mooresville, NC 28117	x	9236	x	x	x	x	\$1,699,000	\$63,850	\$63,000

Contract: Plumbing Construction - Multi Prime

Contractor	Bond/Check	License No.	Add. No. 1	Add. No. 2	Add. No. 3	Add. No. 4	Base Bid
Cajah's Mountain Plumbing PO Box 2610 Lenoir, NC 28645	x	9749	X	x	x	x	\$127,750
Gastonia Plumb. & Heat. PO Box 12247 Gastonia, NC 28052	x	849	X	x	x	x	\$131,200
Hickory Plumbing & Heating 1009 Main Avenue Hickory, NC 28602	x	17304	x	x	x	x	\$130,900
Ingold Company, Inc. PO Box 1870 Hickory, NC 28603	x	00044	x	x	x	x	\$159,100
S & S Mechanical Co. 772 Washington Avenue Statesville, NC 28677	x	05978					non-responsive
TM Caldwell Plumbing 925 10th Street, NE Hickory, NC 28601	x	5767	x	x	x	x	\$124,300

## Contract: HVAC Construction - Multi Prime

Contractor	Bond/Check	License No.	Add. No. 1	Add. No. 2	Add. No. 3	Add. No. 4	Base Bid
Associated Heat. & AC PO Box 249 N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659	x	4205	x	x	x	x	\$136,250
Hickory Sheet Metal Co. PO Box 2049 Hickory, NC 28603	x	02878	x	x	x	x	\$128,700
Huffman Metal Works, Inc. PO Box 1864 Hickory, NC 28603	x	9947	x	x	x	x	\$139,476
Ingold Company, Inc. PO Box 1870 Hickory, NC 28603	x	00044	x	x	x	x	\$148,000
PC Godfrey, Inc. PO Box 668567 Charlotte, NC 28266	x	1098	x	x	x	x	\$155,600
S & S Mechanical Co. 772 Washington Avenue Statesville, NC 28677	x	05978					non-responsive
Triangle Contractors, Inc. PO Box 8010 Morganton, NC 28689	x	07613	x	x	x	x	\$184,465
Wm. C. Reynolds Co., Inc. PO Box 2068 Hickory, NC 28603	x	2385	x	x	x	x	\$130,916

## Contract: Electrical Construction - Multi Prime

Contractor	Bond/Check	License No.	Add. No. 1	Add. No. 2	Add. No. 3	Add. No. 4	Base Bid	Alt. E-01 Eliminate lighting with GC-01
Decoe Inc. 1779 Poplar Springs Road Elkin, NC 28621	x	16739-U	x	x	x	x	\$171,981	\$12,093
Fowler Electric PO Box 901 Southern Pines, NC 28385	x	479-U	x	x	x	x	\$208,000	\$7,972
Lake Electric Company PO Box 642 Denver, NC 28037	x	10515-U	x	x	x	x	\$187,400	\$12,367
Tarheel Electric Company PO Box 1223 Mooresville, NC 28115	x	15906-U	x	x	x	x	\$226,000	\$9,200

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to award the following bids for the construction of the Mental Health Lifeskills Facility to the following:

(1) CBM International, Charlotte	\$1,364,000	General Contractor
(2) Hickory Sheet Metal, Hickory	\$ 128,700	Mechanical
(3) T.M. Caldwell Plumbing, Hickory	\$ 124,300	Plumbing
(4) Decoe, Inc., Elkin	<u>\$ 171,981</u>	Electrical
Total	<u>\$1,788,981</u>	

Commissioner Beatty's motion deemed S & S Mechanical's bid as non-responsive and the bid was not considered for bid award.

Commissioner Beatty's motion also recommended the approval of the following budget transfer and revision:

## General Capital Projects Fund – Capital Projects – Life Skills Project

### Transfer of Appropriations:

Transfer From Mental Health Addition Project:

410-460100-986000-15017 Architecture and Engineering	(\$ 706)
410-460100-988000-15017 Building Structures & Improvements	( 321,724)
	(\$ 322,430)

### Transfer To Life Skills Project:

410-460100-988000-15027 Building Structures & Improvements	\$ 322,430
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## Supplemental Appropriations:

Expenses:

110-530901-868198 Foundation Donations	\$ 274,607
410-460100-988000-15027 Building Structures & Improvements	\$ 1,486,551
410-460100-986000-15027 Architect & Engineering	<u>117,569</u>
	\$ 1,878,727

## Revenues:

110-530901-690101 Fund Balance Applied	\$ 274,607
410-460100-682650 The Mental Health Fund, Inc.	\$ 1,498,719
410-460100-690100 Fund Balance Applied	<u>105,401</u>
	\$ 1,878,727

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beatty thanked Mr. Hardy and staff for working on the project.

Mr. Lundy thanked Ernest Williams from Catawba County Schools for working on the project at no additional costs to Catawba County.

b. Finance:

1. Bids for Middle School B.

Chair Barnes recognized Hickory Public Schools Board of Education Members Gloria Hemphill, Sarah Talbert, Joab Cotton, Robert Braswell, and Assistant Superintendent Kathy Isenhour.

Finance Director Rodney N. Miller said the Board of Commissioners is requested to appropriate \$12,073,503 for the construction and furnishing of Hickory Middle School B, contingent upon Local Government Commission approval of an installment financing contract between the County and Bank of America for \$9,900,000.

Since July 2000, Hickory City Schools has targeted as its top priority the construction of a new Middle School to replace Grandview Middle School, which is over 45 years old and experiencing significant mechanical and electrical problems. Plans for the new middle school are almost identical to the plans for Northview Middle School and call for a multi-story school appropriate for limited acreage. Both sites are approximately 22 acres and owned by the Hickory City School System. The Middle School B project was included in the 8-year school construction and improvement plan, as presented to the Citizens' Advisory Committee in early

2001. Northview Middle School, the most recent middle school built in Catawba County, was completed in 2001 for \$12.5 million.

Catawba County has historically financed school construction through General Obligation Bonds, which is normally the least expensive method to finance school construction in North Carolina. With interest rates at all-time lows, the County explored other methods to finance the Middle School B project, such as financing described under G.S. 160A-20. This type of financing pledges the asset acquired or constructed as collateral for the loan in case of default. There are two financing methods to consider under this legislation: Certificates of Participation (COP's) and Installment Purchase Financing. With both methods, since the County does not own the land upon which the Middle School will be built, the Hickory City Board of Education must convey the land to the County in order for the County to borrow the funds for the new school. The County will, in turn, lease the new school and land to the Board of Education for its use, and at the end of the financing term (15-years) transfer all rights to the property back to the school system.

Installment Purchase Financing is less expensive as long as the borrowed funds and any other debt financing that occurs in the same calendar year total less than \$10 million. For Catawba County, no other debt has been, or will be issued in this calendar year. To take advantage of lower financing costs and a more favorable interest rate, the County will borrow funds from Bank of America for \$9.9 million through an Installment Purchase Contract. Cost savings by choosing this method are estimated between \$500,000 - \$600,000 over fifteen years. The County will then pledge tax revenues for the remaining balance of \$2,173,503. These funds will be paid back to the County through a reimbursement resolution discussed below.

Included in the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 03-04 are funds for the construction of a Maiden High School and expansion of the County's Justice Center. These two projects are estimated to cost \$25 million and \$17 million, respectively, with construction expected to begin in 2004. Since these two projects will be in excess of \$10 million, the County will need to issue COP's. This financing includes selling Certificates of Participation in the County's name to investors in the open market. This process requires more technical expertise from a financial advisor, underwriter and bond counsel, which makes the issuance costs higher than installment purchase financing. When the County issues COP's for \$42 million next year to finance a new Maiden High School and expansion of the Justice Center, the amount over \$9.9 million for the Middle School B project, or \$2,173,503, will be added to the COP's financing. The County will then reimburse the General Fund for that amount of pledged tax revenues.

Construction Control Corporation (CCC), a construction management firm out of Columbia, South Carolina, approached Catawba County earlier this year to explore the possibility of providing construction management services for future capital projects of the County. Their services include managing the construction project from start to finish, including a value engineering study on the project design, working directly with contractors, reducing change orders and completing the project on time. They agreed to do a value-engineering study on the design of Middle School B, at no cost to the County, to determine if any cost savings could be realized. Since the construction of Hickory Middle School B will use essentially the same design as the one for Northview Middle, the Northview design was used as the basis for the value engineering review. The results of the study showed that the proposed design was cost efficient for a core of 800 students, which Middle School B is planned to accommodate.

All local governments in North Carolina that borrow funds greater than \$500,000 or longer than five years to maturity must receive approval by the Local Government Commission (LGC), a division of the NC Department of State Treasurer. The LGC will consider this project at their September 2, 2003, afternoon meeting in Raleigh.

The Board of Commissioners, at its July 7, 2003 meeting approved the construction of Hickory Middle School B in the southern part of the Hickory City School district, financed through an installment purchase contract. On August 4, the Board accepted the financing proposal from Bank of America for \$9.9 million at a rate of 3.54% for fifteen years. On August 18, the Board held a public hearing regarding the financing, adopted a resolution requesting the Local Government Commission to approve the financing arrangement, and approved all documents in connection with the financing of Hickory Middle School B.

Staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$12,073,503 for the construction and furnishing of Hickory Middle School B, contingent upon Local Government Commission approval of an installment financing contract between the County and Bank of America for \$9,900,000.

[illegible]

423-750100-865200-32111-2-01	Construction-Middle School B	\$12,073,503
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423-750050-695110	Transfer from General Fund	\$ 2,173,503
423-750050-690450	Installment Purchase Proceeds	<u>\$ 9,900,000</u>
		\$12,073,500

110-190900-995423	Transfer to School Construction Fund	\$2,173,503
110-190050-690100	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$2,173,503

[illegible]

Assistant Superintendent Kathy Isenhour introduced School Board Chair Sarah Talbert.

Ms. Talbert thanked the Board for its assistance and support of Middle School B. The figure of \$12,610,599 is less than they had planned when they first introduced for bond referendum planning in 2000. They reused plans from the Northview project and moved ahead with land acquisition by borrowing money from other funds when it was prudent to purchase land. They took advantage of favorable construction climate, They were before the Commissioners with a figure below the \$13 million level and only 4.7 percent above the cost of the Northview project four years ago. They are careful planners and good stewards of their education money. Their Board unanimously approved the request for \$12,610,599 which includes land acquisition, design, construction, contingency, furnishings and equipment. At the time they pursued the land acquisition for the property, they borrowed funds from the College Park Renovation Fund so they could take advantage of the favorable real estate prices. They felt they had a gentle persons agreement that the funds that they borrowed would be reimbursed to the College Park Fund when the financing was in place for Middle School B. They went ahead with the land acquisition in good faith based on that agreement. They appreciated the cooperative spirit that the Commissioners have afforded them in undertaking the project and she said it was their hope the Commissioners would honor funds in the amount of \$537,096.

Mr. Lundy said staff's recommendation is in the amount of \$12.1 million. The Hickory School system and board have been very good stewards. It is common for the county to purchase land ahead of time. He said while this land was paid for, the County has also paid for the land for the new Maiden High School. He said when the County sells bonds next year to finance the new Maiden High School, the County will not be selling additional bonds or incurring additional debt to pay the school system or pay the County. He said the County bought elementary school property for the Newton-Conover system for a anticipated facility to be built using bond funds. Reimbursing the \$537,096 would be a departure from what the County has done in the past. Mr. Lundy said he didn't know of any agreement or discussion about this issue. He said the Commissioners had questions about how the balance of the College Park Fund would be spent and he didn't recall any discussion about anything more than remaining balance. Mr. Lundy briefly reviewed the project and said the Board could take action next spring on the land and right-of-way costs.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Lail said all school boards need to work together to come up with a uniform plan for all schools that might be built in Catawba County because of the efficiency and cost benefit.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to appropriate funds in the amount of \$12,073,503 for the construction and furnishing of Hickory Middle School B, contingent upon Local Government Commission approval of an installment financing contract between the County and Bank of



America for \$9,900,000 and also approve the aforementioned supplemental appropriation. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Attorneys' Report. None.
12. Manager's Report.
13. Other items of business:

Mr. Lundy presented the following two items to the Board:

- a. Resolution Urging Changes in U.S. - China Trade Policies.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2003-40  
OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
URGING CHANGES IN U.S. - CHINA TRADE POLICIES**

WHEREAS, Catawba County has suffered severe job losses in recent years and has a current unemployment rate of 9.5 percent meaning almost 7,273 people are unemployed; and

WHEREAS, Catawba County has lost approximately 9,485 manufacturing jobs over the past six years, many of which were due to cheaper overseas competition; and

WHEREAS, many of these cheap imports come from China where the Chinese government has manipulated its currency to maintain it at an artificially low rate compared to the U.S. dollar; and

WHEREAS, this currency manipulation allows Chinese goods to sell in the U.S. at a 40 percent discount while U.S. exports to China cost 40 percent more; and

WHEREAS, such currency manipulation to create a trade advantage is contrary to various international treaties and trade agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners petition the President and the Congress to take immediate steps to protect our manufacturers from unfair foreign competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners asks that the issue of Chinese currency manipulation be brought before international trade organizations as well as discussed in bilateral talks between China and the U.S. in an effort to bring about a market driven system for valuation of Chinese currency; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners asks the President and members of Congress to remember the thousands of American families who are severely affected by unemployment brought about by unfair foreign competition. These Americans look to our national leaders for help and protection. The Catawba County Board of Commissioners joins with them in requesting assistance on this urgent matter.

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2003.

/s/ Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
County Board of Catawba Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk

Commissioner Lail made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Cooperative Extension Position.

Mr. Lundy said the Cooperative Extension position is funded 50 percent by the state and 50 percent by the County and when Ms. Myatt resigned the state's portion was frozen. The county's

portion has been funded. The Board has asked the Cooperative Extension to take an expanded role in terms of litter and clean up of the county and Mr. Miller, working with the advisory committee, has agreed to take on that responsibility.

Catawba County is the eleventh largest county in North Carolina with a population of 146,690 (2000 census). Catawba County has experienced significant changes in population since 1990, placing increasing pressure on the natural resources of the county.

Catawba County leaders and its citizens have identified litter prevention and education and related community beautification efforts as having significant impact on both the quality of life and positive perception of visitors to the county. Additional concerns about water and air quality and the potential for non-attainment status for ozone further highlight the need for a proactive environmental education program.

General Scope of Work and Responsibilities:

A full time, experienced environmental educator is needed to provide leadership to coordinate, facilitate, and work collaboratively with stakeholders in Catawba County—communities, citizens groups, agencies, municipalities, state agencies, private industry, and others to plan, prioritize, deliver, and evaluate a comprehensive public education and environmental stewardship program with significant program emphasis on storm water education, litter and waste reduction and education, and air quality. The agent will work with the Household Hazardous Waste Task Force as well as promote the Waste Education Center, Backyard Composting, Vermicomposting, and Stormwater Management. The agent will train and coordinate volunteers involved in environmental public policy and community outreach and develop advisory committees as needed. The agent will take steps to supplement available funds by pursuing grants that conform to objectives identified by advisory committee and county government. Mr. Lundy said staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners make the existing half-time position in Cooperative Extension a full-time effort in environmental education and approve a budget revision.

Appropriations		Revenues	
525-350350-812100	\$15,000	525-2350050-690100	\$18,902
Regular Wages		Fund Balance Applied	
525-350350-821100	\$1,148		
FICA		Total	\$18,902
525-350350-822100	\$734		
Local Gov't Employees Retirement			
525-350350-823100	\$1,613		
Group Health			
525-350350-823300	\$262		
Group Dental			
525-350350-823600	\$39		
Disability Long Term			
525-350350-825500	\$106		
Disability Short Term			
Total	\$18,902		

Commissioner Barger made a motion to make the existing half-time position in Cooperative Extension a full-time position in Environmental Education and approve the aforementioned budget revision. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment.

**September 2, 2003, MB#49**

At 12:23 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Thelda B. Rhoney  
County Clerk